

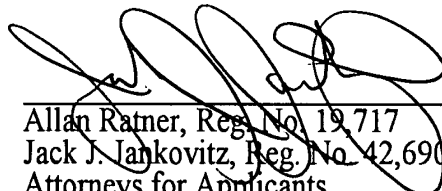
(c) configuring the at least one quantization step of the first set by a respective one multiplier factor of the third set and by a respective one quantization step of the second set; and

(d) recording the respective one quantization step and the respective one multiplier factor.

22. (Newly Added) The method of claim 21 wherein step (b) includes reducing the quantization steps of the first set into a fewer number of quantization steps of the second set.

23. (Newly Added) The method of claim 21 wherein step (c) includes configuring a plurality of quantization steps of the first set, by a respective plurality of multiplier factors of the third set and by a respective plurality of quantization steps of the second set, for encoding the compressed signal.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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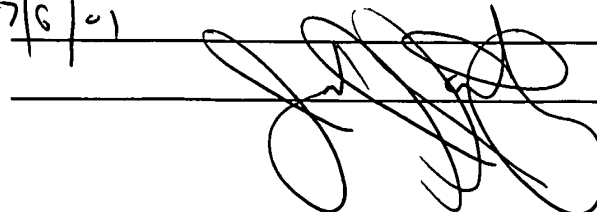
Dated: July 6, 2001

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